REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim 1 has been amended to more accurately define the invention claimed. The examiner has acknowledged that claim 2 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitation of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Seemann (US Patent No. 4,353,463) discloses a cartridge comprising a cylindrical plastic container with one end closed with a metal tie. A first plastic sleeve having a pressure rupturable membrane is positioned in the container with a second plastic sleeve having a pressure rupturable membrane is positioned inside the first plastic sleeve. The pressure rupturable membrane is ruptured by applying axial pressure to the membrane. There is no elongated member inside the container.

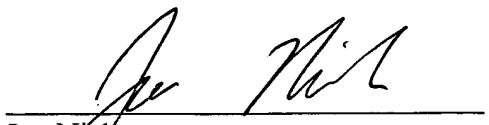
O'Meara (US Patent No. 5,042,690) discloses a cap and tube assembly comprising a tube with a nozzle mounted on one end having a thin wall section puncturable to provide a discharge on the other end of the nozzle. The cap engages and covers the nozzle on the tube and has an axially centered puncture spike positioned to move axially to puncture the thin wall section in the nozzle. The cap further comprises an applicator for dispensing the contents of the tube. The cap is a separate component that is placed over the outside of the nozzle. The opening means is not enclosed inside the tube. Furthermore, there is no elongated member inside the container.

Applicant's invention is a sealed container with an enclosed opening means. The enclosed opening means is operated by bending the sealed container. In the preferred embodiment, the sealed container with an enclosed opening means comprises an elongated tubular housing with a sealed end and an open end. A liquid is enclosed within the elongated tubular housing near the sealed end. An enclosed opening means is disposed inside the

elongated tubular housing sealing the liquid within the elongated tubular housing. In the preferred embodiment, the enclosed opening means comprises of a cylinder with an outside diameter approximately that of the inside diameter of the elongated tubular housing defining a liquid flow path from the liquid to the open end of said elongated tubular housing and an elongated protrusion that is separable from the cylinder extending from an end of the cylinder near the liquid and sealing the liquid flow path. When the elongated tubular housing is bent near the opening means the liquid is released from the elongated tubular housing. When the elongated tubular housing has a small cross-section such that the liquid within it cannot be released simply by opening the opening means due to the liquid's surface tension, a guiding member is utilized to increase the capillary action and to overcome the surface tension of the liquid to release the liquid from the elongated tubular housing.

Applicant hereby submits that the claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 have all been overcome. Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,



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